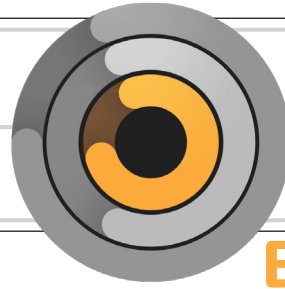




DR. CODY McQUEEN
OCTOBER 6, 2024



BE A DISCIPLE

A Disciple Prays

MATTHEW 6:5-15

*Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, **teach us to pray**, as John taught his disciples." Luke 11:1*

I. A disciple does **not** pray to _____ use God.

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." vv. 5-8

Prayer is not a social way to build your status with others.

Prayer is not a magical formula to manipulate God.

Prayer is a conversation with a personal God.

II. A disciple prays to _____ connect with God.

"Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." vv. 9-10

Your relationship is one with a good Father.

Your relationship is one with a sovereign King.

III. A disciple prays to _____ ask God to provide.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. vv. 11-13

A disciple depends on God for their daily needs.

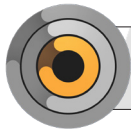
A disciple depends on God for protection from sin.

PRAYING JESUS' WAY

Pray to stay _____ to God who loves you most.

Pray to stay _____ to God's will that's for your best.

Pray to stay _____ on God's kingdom that will last.



Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Matthew 6:5-15. Why would the disciples ask Jesus how to pray? What insight does this give into our privilege as believers, versus the way God's people approached Him before?
2. The Lord's Prayer should be understood as an example or pattern of how to pray. What "ingredients" should go into prayer, according to Jesus? How does His example help us?
3. What does it mean to "heap up empty phrases" ("babble on and on," NLT) when we pray? What are some examples of this, and why does Jesus tell us to avoid it?
4. Read Psalm 34:17, Matthew 7:7-11 and James 5:16. If God is sovereign and knows all, what difference does prayer make?
5. What are some reasons why prayer can be difficult? How does it encourage you to view prayer as a learning process?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. How can we motivate ourselves to stay disciplined when we lack endurance in prayer, especially when it seems God isn't answering?
7. Missionary Frank Laubach said, *I want to learn how to live so that to see someone is to pray for them.* This week, spend each day offering a silent prayer for every person you come in contact with, and journal about what you learn.
8. In weeks ahead, schedule some regular times of solitude away from distractions for extended prayer. Alternately, find ways to gift solitude to another believer who has challenges in this area (children at home, caregiver, etc.).

RESOURCES ON PRAYER

On Earth as It Is in Heaven: How the Lord's Prayer Teaches Us to Pray More Effectively by Warren Wiersbe. A beloved teacher and writer explains and applies the elements of the Lord's Prayer to help the reader mature in their personal prayer ministry.

Praying: Finding Our Way Through Duty to Delight by J. I. Packer and Carolyn Nystrom. Prayer is an essential, expected practice for Christians, but also a privilege and a joy. This practical book helps move us to deeper obedience, joy and intimacy with our Father.

A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World by Paul Miller. Learn to pray faithfully and courageously with this guide that encourages Christians to pursue a powerful prayer life.

Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference? by Philip Yancey. A classic of spiritual insight and investigation, tackling tough questions with a fresh new approach to the mystery of prayer.

The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions, Arthur Bennett, ed. This classic compilation of 200 petitions and meditations teaches great theological truths by using a template of Puritan-style confessional prayer.

"I'd rather be able to pray than be a great preacher; Jesus Christ never taught His disciples how to preach, but only how to pray."

DWIGHT L. MOODY

"Prayer is not so much an act as it is an attitude—an attitude of dependency, dependency upon God. ... Real prayer is communion with God, so that there will be common thoughts between His mind and ours. What is needed is for Him to fill our hearts with His thoughts, and then His desires will become our desires flowing back to Him. ... The prevailing idea seems to be that I come to God and ask Him for something that I want, and that I expect Him to give me that which I have asked. But ... the popular belief reduces God to a servant, our servant: doing our bidding, performing our pleasure, granting our desires. No, prayer is a coming to God, telling Him my need, committing my way unto the Lord, and leaving Him to deal with it as seemeth Him best."

A. W. PINK

"American culture is probably the hardest place in the world to learn to pray. We are so busy that when we slow down to pray, we find it uncomfortable. We prize accomplishments, production. But prayer is nothing but talking to God. It feels useless, as if we are wasting time. ... Because we can do life without God, praying seems nice but unnecessary. Money can do what prayer does, and it is quicker and less time-consuming. Our trust in ourselves and in our talents makes us structurally independent of God. As a result, exhortations to pray don't stick. ... learning to pray is almost identical to maturing over a lifetime. What does it feel like to grow up? It is a thousand feelings on a thousand different days. That is what learning to pray feels like. So don't hunt for a feeling in prayer. Deep in our psyches we want an experience with God or an experience in prayer. Once we make that our quest, we lose God. You don't experience God; you get to know Him. You submit to Him. You enjoy Him. He is, after all, a person."

PAUL MILLER

"There is more that you can do after you pray, but there is nothing you can do until you pray."

CURTIS HUTSON

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

ELDER PRAYER The elders and their wives would love to spend time with you and pray for any encouragement or healing you need in your life right now. God does extraordinary things when we go to Him, and we're excited to do this together on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/elderprayer.

DISASTER RELIEF Christ Chapel's Disaster Relief Ministry sends teams of volunteers to disaster situations to provide hope, help, and healing in Jesus' name. In response to the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene, we are taking action. If you'd like to know more about how to be involved, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/disaster. You may also support this effort financially by indicating Local Outreach or Disaster Relief in your contribution.

RELATIONAL WISDOM Being a disciple of Jesus is relational! On Sunday, Oct. 20, here at the Fort Worth Campus, we'll begin our Relational Wisdom class, focusing on how we can cultivate authentic, enjoyable and lasting relationships centered on God's glory. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/wisdom.

A NIGHT OF WORSHIP WITH STEVE GREEN Alongside Christ Chapel's choir and orchestra, legendary artist Steve Green will be a part of leading us in a beautiful night of worship that's sure to encourage and inspire. We'll see you at the Fort Worth Campus on Friday, Oct. 25 at 7 P.M. for an incredible evening together!

WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER Set aside time to be in God's presence on Saturday, Oct. 19, by coming to the Women's Day of Prayer! Hosted at the Fort Worth Campus, it will offer an opportunity for solo prayer, praying over each other and sharing in communion. We're looking forward to being together and hope you can join us! Register at www.ccbcfamily.org/dayofprayer.

MSM GIRLS NIGHT We are excited to offer our MSM Girls Night at the Fort Worth Campus! Join in on the fun, grow in God's Word and build community. Join us Friday, Nov. 8, at 6:30 p.m. through Saturday, Nov. 9, at 11:30 a.m. Learn more and register by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/girlsnight.

LUNCH WITH A MISSIONARY Ever wonder about our Global Missions Ministry? Join us Sunday, Oct. 20 at 12:30 p.m. for Lunch With a Missionary! Fellowship with one another and learn more about how to support the persecuted church around the world. If you would like to learn more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/lunch.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.